

Westview Baptist Church

www.westview-baptists.info

“people learning to live Jesus’ way”

19th January 2014

Our purpose is to bring glory to God. We will do this as we:

1. are transformed by enjoying Christ;
 2. love by serving others; and
 3. proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world
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Today we take some time to recognise God’s gift to us of David and Robyn. They were a young married couple in 1978 when Kings Langley Baptist Church was being planted. From those days to the present they have been at the heart of the church’s life, and it is beyond words to express what we owe to them; clearly God has blessed us more than we can tell in giving them to us.

In our early years, the church was hosted for lunches at their home every couple of months. David’s leadership qualities were soon evident, and after a couple of years he was recognised as our first deacon. His understanding of financial matters, along with his confidence in the wisdom of the Bible, were just what the young church needed, for, as the leaders soon learned, money problems were one of the chief sources of distress among us.

David and Robyn’s value of the Scriptures led them both to complete Theological Certificate

courses. Around 1990, the church recognised that God had given us our second Elder in David, and Robyn's own heart for the young people led her to consistent involvement with the Sunday School and Scripture teaching, but she also served for a term as the church's Treasurer, and she led the P&K [support] group for our first missionary family with wonderful enthusiasm.

For several years David led a young people's group in Doonside. David's gifts in teaching, coupled with his knowledge and love of the Scriptures, continue to bless the church family, but especially so the children, and his concern for them led him to teach them week by week for many years to ensure consistency in their formative years.

Quietly and out of sight during the week, David has also been caring for the grounds all around the property, mowing, picking up rubbish, encouraging the lawn around the swings – a humble and caring ministry, so needful, but so easy to neglect.

Their presence with us on Sundays week by week always finds them involved in being with others over morning tea, offering a word of encouragement or a 'pearl of wisdom' wherever appropriate, and often Robyn's happy laughter means some fun is being shared somewhere in the hall.

Today we take the opportunity to officially farewell them as over the next weeks they may or may not be with us. Please stay and share in the special morning tea after our service concludes.

Transformed by Enjoying Christ

Teaching Sessions

Today we look at 2 Cor 5:16-17 where we will explore what it means to be image bearers of God bringing reconciliation to the world. Next week is the last of the summer program where we will look at being Gospel Bearers giving glory to God (Phil 1:3-11).

On the 2 February, the Elders will be presenting something from our retreat earlier in the year. We hope to present an aim for the church that all will be able to take on board and give us focus for 2014. Please make every effort to be there.

Love and Service

Family News and Prayers

Bethany seems to be enjoying her time in Strasbourg France undertaking a course in the french language. Your continued prayers are valued.

From Matt and Becky

Dear Westview Family, A few days ago we received such a



lovely package from you! Thank you so very much for the "Baby Shower in a box"! I was so surprised and loved everything in it! (and we will definitely use all of it!) You truly take care of us. Please see the attached thank you. You are the best! Love, Becky (& Matt)

Living Faithfully in Our World

South Sudan Crisis

The crisis in South Sudan is no mere hiccup. The fighting that erupted in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on Sunday 15 December 2013 within the presidential guard has spiralled into widespread ethnic conflict there precisely because this crisis has its roots in decades of unresolved, festering ethnic tensions and in painful memories and wounds glossed over in the name of 'reconciliation'. Unless hostilities cease immediately, followed by honest reflection and healing, the new nation of South Sudan could disintegrate. Throughout 2013 Khartoum (Sudan) - struggling with its own economic and political crises - has been engaged in an unprecedented military build-up, clearly preparing for war. Chaos and ethnic fighting in South Sudan could open the door for Islamist Khartoum to seize control of South Sudan's oil fields. Please pray for the Church and for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. Pray for those outside the country concerned for family groups and clans.

Alex is seeking to host through SAIDA an

afternoon of special prayers for peace in South Sudan on 1.2.14, from 4pm at the Doonside property. Further information to come later.

Praying for the Persecuted

Last year we commenced praying for Open Doors' [World Watch List](#), the only annual survey of religious liberty conditions of Christians around the world, and measures freedom in five key areas of life: private, family, community, national, the church, as well as the degree of violence faced by believers.

Those countries were 1. North Korea; 2. Saudi Arabia; 3. Afghanistan, 4. Iraq, 5. Somalia, 6. Maldives, 7. Mali, 8. Iraq.

The 2014 list commences with 1. North Korea, 2. Somalia, 3. Syria, 4. Iraq, 5. Afghanistan, 6. Saudi Arabia, 7. Maldives, 8. Pakistan. It is hard to know how to understand the changes, but we can have confidence that the prayers of the saints do not go unanswered. This year we will pray for those new on the top 8 countries and then continue to pray the new list.

#3 Persecuted Country: Syria

In the deteriorated situation of Syrian Christians, the rise of extremist Islamist elements plays a predominant role. Nearly half of rebels fighting in Syria have a jihadist or hardline Islamist background. As the conflict is becoming more and more sectarian, targeted violence against Christians has increasing during over time. Christians have

become an increasingly vulnerable group, facing increasing faith-related pressure in all spheres of life with reports of many Christians being abducted, physically harmed and killed. Within the context of civil war, many churches are damaged or destroyed, in many cases deliberately. If the conflict results in an extremist Islamic take over, the situation will even be worse for Christians and other minority groups.

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